

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 01242 291010Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 /092 W

----- 076966

R 290712Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6653

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 1242

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG UR

SUBJECT: ASSURING ADEQUATE PETROLEUM SUPPLIES FOR MUSHROOMING

NUMBER OF SOVIET VEHICLES: PROBLEMS ON THE HORIZON?

1. ARTICLE IN JANUARY 28 PRAVDA ENTITLED "YOU APPROACHED THE GAS PUMP..." DRAWS ATTENTION TO POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES IN PROVIDING SUFFICIENT FUEL SUPPLIES FOR RAPIDLY INCREASING SOVIET VEHICLE POPULATION. PENNED BY ONE B. CHIRKOV, DEPUTY CHIEF OF MOSCOW OBLAST' COMMITTEE OF PEOPLE'S CONTROL, ARTICLE OVERALL IS CRITIQUE OF GASOLINE SERVICE STATION DESIGN AND OPERATIONS, BOTH OF WHICH INADEQUATE TO MEET NEEDS OF MODERN VEHICLE-ORIENTED ECONOMY. STATIONS CONTINUE TO BE DESIGNED SO POORLY, CHIRKOV NOTES, THAT ONE CAR OR TRUCK BLOCKS SEVERAL PUMPS WHILE TANKING UP, LEADING TO LONG LINES AT STATIONS ON MAIN HIGHWAYS. FURTHER, SCANT ATTENTION PAID TO "LEVEL OF CULTURE" IN DESIGNING STATIONS, AND

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 01242 291010Z

EVEN NEWEST INSTALLATIONS LACK SUCH BASIC RE-

QUIREMENTS AS TOILETS. STATION OPERATION IS ALSO AT LOW LEVEL, MOST DRIVERS STILL HAVING TO OBTAIN FUEL ON SELF-SERVICE PRINCIPLE.

2. ARTICLE ALSO CONDEMNS WIDESPREAD CORRUPTION--BOTH BY DRIVERS AND GAS STATION OPERATORS--MANIFESTED IN ILLEGAL SALES OF STATE GAS COUPONS (USED FOR OFFICIAL VEHICLES) TO OWNERS OF PRIVATE CARS. (THIS WAS ALSO MAIN THRUST OF JANUARY 11 IZVESTIYA ARTICLE, WHICH RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PRESS PLAY IN WEST.)

3. OF PERHAPS GREATEST INTEREST IN ARTICLE, HOWEVER, IS CONCERN EXPRESSED BY CHIRKOV THAT PRESENT PETROLEUM PRODUCTION/SUPPLY SYSTEM MAY PROVE INSUFFICIENT TO MEET FUTURE DEMAND FOR GASOLINE AND RELATED OIL PRODUCTS. "AUTOMATIVE TRANSPORT IS A MASSIVE CONSUMER OF FUEL," HE NOTES. NEEDED TO "MORE FULLY" SATISFY REQUIREMENTS FOR LIQUID FUELS ARE BOTH WIDER SCOPE (RAZMAKH) OF PRODUCTION AND ALSO A "SENSIBLE DISTRIBUTION OF GASOLINE, THE STRICTEST REGIMEN OF ECONOMIZING." IN LATTER CONNECTION CHIRKOV NOTES THAT EXISTING (SOVIET-MADE) GASOLINE PUMPS ARE OF SUCH LOW QUALITY THAT CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT GASOLINE IS WASTED SIMPLY IN UTILIZING THEM.

4. COMMENT: TOGETHER WITH EARLIER IZVESTIYA PIECE, APPEARANCE OF THIS ARTICLE LENDS CREDENCE TO SUPPOSITION THAT GASOLINE SUPPLY SITUATION MAY SOON BECOME HIGH-PRIORITY PROBLEM IF CURRENT EXPANSION OF AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTION IS TO HAVE DESIRED ECONOMIC EFFECT. CERTAINLY--AS CHIRKOV POINTS OUT--MAJOR INCREASE IN TRUCK POPULATION UPON COMPLETION OF KAMAZ CAN ONLY AGGRAVATE EXISTING SITUATION. WHILE GAS RATIONING DOES NOT YET APPEAR TO AWAIT SOVIET DRIVER, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF UNSATISFACTORY EXPERIENCE WITH STATE COUPONS, INCREASING EVIDENCE OF SUPPLY PROBLEMS SUGGESTS IMPENDING SHAKE UP WITHIN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
MATLOCK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, SUPPLIES, PRESS COMMENTS, CONSUMPTION, AUTOMOBILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW01242
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750032-0856
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750111/aaaaaizt.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <02 JUN 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSURING ADEQUATE PETROLEUM SUPPLIES FOR MUSHROOMING NUMBER OF SOVIET VEHICLES: PROBLEMS ON THE HORIZON?
TAGS: ENRG, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006